

October 7, 2020

Dear Associates and Sisters,

Karen Davis Fultz passed away on Tuesday, September 29th after a brave fight with cancer. Karen graduated from Franklin-Simpson High School in 1973 and Western Kentucky University in 1976. While growing up her family was very dedicated to their parish and volunteered their services whenever needed.



She was always a hard worker and loved her coworkers, becoming friends easily with them because of her easygoing nature and unique sense of humor. She was always the first person in the office and the last person to leave. As a CPA, she was Director of Accounting for St Thomas Hospital, Chief Financial Officer for Tennessee Orthopedic Alliance, the business manager for St. Susanna Catholic Church in Mason, Ohio, and most recently the Director of Parish & School Financial Services for the Catholic Diocese of Nashville.

Even though Karen enjoyed her work, she was drawn to the simpler and slower paced lifestyle that she saw in the Franciscan sisters and Associates she knew. When Karen left her position as CFO she began her formation as a prospective Associate, feeling renewed by the Franciscan spirit and desired the peace she experienced when she was at Oldenburg.

She made her Associate commitment in 2012, referring to the day as a glorious celebration that left her on a spiritual high. She entered into the relationship with enthusiasm and a desire to serve, promote social justice and grow spiritually with like minded friends. She immediately participated in gatherings with the “Troubadour” group of Associates and sisters, driving almost every month to Cincinnati from Tennessee to attend.

As an Associate, Karen’s favorite volunteer opportunity was to help at the Franciscan Center when it was in Olivia Hall. She enjoyed being the overnight person who served as a contact for retreatants, answering questions, emptying trash, getting more ice, whatever needed. She called herself “the hostess with the mostest!”

Associate Betsy Savare shared how much Karen loved Family Fun Day, especially when she ran Bingo. She was happiest when visiting the Sisters in St. Clare Hall and Sister Laurencia was an absolute favorite of Karen’s. “I have very few memories of Karen that don’t include laughing and having a good time. She loved the Sisters and she loved all of us.”

Karen was always looking for opportunities to be involved with the Community and to share and listen to Associates whenever possible, grateful for the strong sense of connection and friendship. The sense of coming home that she felt at Oldenburg brought her a feeling of joy that she couldn’t wait to share. We were all fortunate enough to experience that joyful spirit when around her. May her struggles now be over and her search for peace be found through the only One who can give true peace, her loving and merciful God.

Carolyn Meyer